

Message Text

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12
ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AF-06 EUR-12 /090 W
----- 083239

R 260626Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1241
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UN
SUBJ: ASIAN SEAT ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL

REF: ISLAMABAD 5676

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR FOLLOWING HIS OWN RETURN FROM ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (UNITED NATIONS, ACTING) MUNIR AKRAM TOOK OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF PAK PROSPECTS FOR WINNING ASIAN UNSC SEAT. GOP'S STRATEGY, HE SAID, WAS TO TAKE A LEAD IN THE FIRST BALLOT, THEN GO ON TO WIN IN SUBSEQUENT VOTING. HE TENTATIVELY ESTIMATED THAT PAKS WOULD RECEIVE SOME 70 VOTES (OF THE APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED NEEDED TO WIN) ON THE FIRST BALLOT, PUTTING IT AHEAD OF BOTH INDIA AND PHILIPPINES.
END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

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2. AKRAM SAID PAKS WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH

PROGRESS THEY HAD MADE IN PUSHING THEIR CANDIDACY AT ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE, WHICH HAD ADOPTED GOP-ENGINEERED PACKAGE PROPOSAL ENDORSING SPECIFIC MUSLIM COUNTRY CANDIDACIES FOR INTERNATIONAL BODIES. HE REPORTED THAT NINE OF THE THIRTY-NINE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES HAD EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ON THE PAK BID, MOSTLY ON GROUNDS OF THE EARLIER ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL DECISION TO FAVOR INDIAN CANDIDACY. THE GOP EXPECTS THAT SOME OF THOSE WHO EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS WILL NONETHELESS VOTE FOR PAKISTAN AND COUNTS AS LOST TO PAKISTAN ON THE FIRST BALLOT ONLY IRAQ, SUDAN, EGYPT, AND BANGLADESH (TO INDIA) AND INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA (TO PHILIPPINES). (ADDITIONALLY, THE PAKS DO NOT COUNT ON AFGHANISTAN'S SUPPORT, THOUGH THEY WERE GRATIFIED BY SILENCE MAINTAINED BY GOA REP DURING DISCUSSION OF UNSC ISSUE).

3. AKRAM SAID GOP PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL TO SYRIA FOR STATING DURING DEBATE THAT IT DID NOT FEEL BOUND BY THE DECISION OF THE ARAB LEAGUE TO SUPPORT INDIA AS (ACCORDING TO THE SYRIANS) NO COMMITMENT HAD BEEN MADE BY THE LEAGUE IN REGARD TO NON-ARAB CANDIDACIES. THE SYRIANS MAINTAINED THAT THE LEAGUE COUNCIL HAD MERELY DECIDED TO REFER THE CANDIDACIES TO THE PERMANENT REPS IN NEW YORK. HE SAID THAT SYRIA HAD ASSURED PAK REPS OF ITS SUPPORT.

4. AKRAM ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH STRONG SUPPORT PAK CANDIDACY HAD RECEIVED FROM SMALLER AFRICAN MUSLIM COUNTRIES. HE SAID GOP WAS HOPEFUL THAT THIS WOULD SPILL OVER INTO MORE GENERAL AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR THE PAK BID. PAKS HAVE SENT ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY NAIK ON FROM JIDDA TO OAU MEETING IN KAMPALA IN EFFORT TO BUILD ON THEIR ISLMIC CONFERENCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

5. AKRAM ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PAKS WERE MORE CONCERNED WITH RIVAL INDIAN CANDIDACY THAN WITH PHILIPPINES' BID. HE WAS AWARE, OF COURSE, OF STRONG GOI CAMPAIGN (WHICH HAS INCLUDED DISPATCH OF SPECIAL ENVOYS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JIDDA TO CANVASS FOR SUPPORT AMONG MUSLIM FOREIGN MINISTERS) AND EXPRESSED SOME APPREHENSION ABOUT WHAT HE EXPECTED WOULD BE HARD INDIAN DRIVE AT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. HE RULED OUT PHILIPPINES' SUCCESS WITH ARGUMENT THAT FILIPINOS COULD NOT LAND EITHER MUSLIM GROUP (EXCEPT FOR ASEAN PARTNERS) OR SOVIET BLOC.

6. AKRAM DID NOT ENQUIRE ABOUT LATEST US POSITION.

HE ESTIMATED THAT INDIAN EVENTS WOULD HURT GOI BID AMONG WESTERN COUNTRIES, BUT THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT COUNTERBALANCED IN THIRD WORLD, SOME OF WHOSE MEMBERS WOULD RECOGNIZE IN MRS. GANDHI'S PROBLEMS AND REACTONS A REFLECTION OF THEIR OWN SITUATIONS. HE ADDED, HWOEVER, THAT AT THIS POINT PAKS HAD NO SOLID EVIDENCE FOR EITHER CNJECTURE. HE NOTED THAT PRC HAD ASSURED PAKS OF THEIR FULL SUPPORT.

7. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO OTHER POSTS FOR INFO AS DESIRED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ISLAMA06832
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750258-1193
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750718/aaaaapzf.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ISLAMABAD 5676
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASIAN SEAT ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL
TAGS: PFOR, PK, UN, UNSC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006